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X-MEN

BOOK THREE:
MEN & X-MEN



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CHRIS CLAREMONT • SEAN CHEN

PREVIOUSLY

I WAS THIRTEEN WHEN I FIRST MET THE SHI'AR, AND THEIR EMPRESS, LILANDRA NERAMANI.

IMAGINE, A SKINNY LITTLE KID FROM CHICAGO MIXING IT UP WITH THE RULER OF A GALACTIC EMPIRE. MIND YOU, AT THE TIME I WAS BUSY TRYING MY BEST TO KEEP THAT EMPIRE FROM VAPORIZING THE EARTH--BUT THAT'S WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE FOR THE X-MEN.

YEARS LATER, A CREATURE NAMED CASSANDRA NOVA CLAIMING TO BE CHARLES XAVIER'S EVIL TWIN--HIJACKED XAVIER'S BODY AND WHILE IMPERSONATING HIM, LAID WASTE TO SHI'AR AND TO THE PSYCHE OF THEIR EMPRESS.

MIGUEL ALEJANDRO MCCOY

SAMUEL GUTHRIE

HENRY "HANK" MCCOY

LILA CHENEY

CECILIA REYES MCCOY

THOMAS JEFFERSON GUTHRIE

DANIELLE PRICE CHENEY

CIARÁN MCCOY

FRANCESCA MCCOY

NINA SUSAN CHENEY

THEY WERE BLOWN FROM WHICH BOTH ALMOST DIDN'T RECOVER.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THOSE TERRIBLE DAYS, CENTRAL AUTHORITY WAS RESTORED, MAINLY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF LILANDRA'S CHANCELLOR, A MYSTERIOUS AND CHARISMATIC WAR-LEADER WHO'D RISEN FROM THE CHAOS TO A POSITION OF POWER IN THE EMPIRE SECOND ONLY TO THE MAJESTRIX HERSELF.

IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT ONLY THE IMPERIAL SUPERGUARDIANS, SWORN TO THE SERVICE OF THE MONARCH, STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND THE THRONE.

NOW, AS THEY HAD SO OFTEN BEFORE, THANKS TO THE MANIPULATIONS OF OTHERS, THE SUPERGUARDIANS AND THE X-MEN FOUND THEMSELVES ADVERSARIES.

TURNOUT REMAINS
EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH FOR
ONE OF THE CLOSEST AND
HARDEST-FOUGHT MAYORAL
ELECTIONS IN THE CITY'S
HISTORY.

ELECT CHICAGO'S

EARTH FOR
HUMANITY

AT THIS POINT,
EVEN VETERAN POLITICAL
ANALYSTS HAVE NO IDEA
WHO WILL WIN.

PRYDE

ELECT CHICAGO'S

PRYDE

ELECT CHICAGO'S

MUTE
TRAX

ALTHOUGH THE
MOST RECENT TRACKING
POLLS SUGGEST TROUBLE
FOR INDEPENDENT--
MUTANT--CANDIDATE
KATE PRYDE.

REGRETTABLY,
THERE ARE REPORTS OF
SCATTERED INCIDENTS
OF VIOLENCE.

I UTTERLY
DEPLORE THIS
ATTACK AND THE
TRAGIC LOSS
OF LIFE.

BUT THIS INCIDENT
NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHTS THE
PRIMAL PASSIONS THAT
EXIST BETWEEN OUR
TWO SPECIES...

TREMAINE

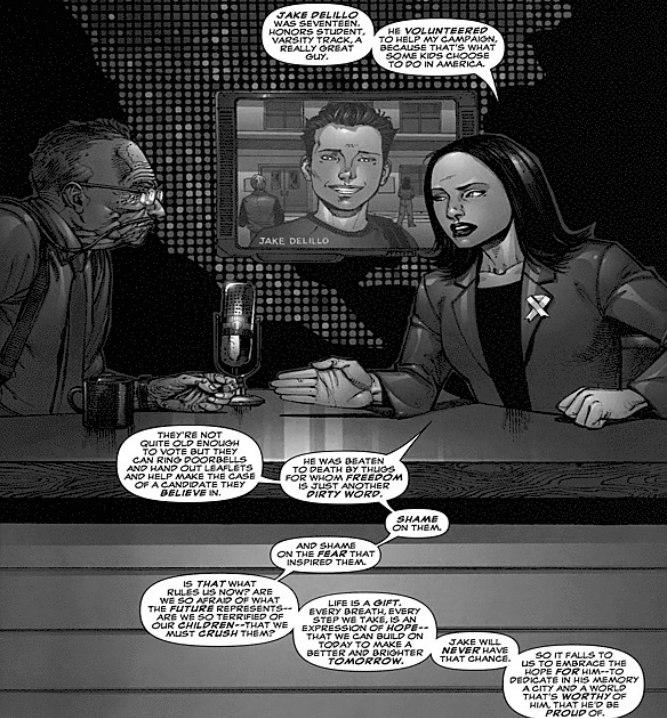
CONGRESSWOMAN ALICE TREMAINE

...BUT THE
TERRIBLE DANGER
OF FORCIBLY MIXING
THE TWO.

HINGE OF FATE

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & SEAN CHEN

SANDU FLOREA INKS
AVALON'S IAN HANNIN
COLORS
DAVE SHARPE LETTERS
SCHMIDT, SITTERSON & LAZER
ASST. EDITORS
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER



JAKE DELILLO
WAS SEVENTEEN.
HONORS STUDENT,
VARSITY TRACK, A
REALLY GREAT
GUY.

HE VOLUNTEERED
TO HELP MY CAMPAIGN,
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT
SOME KIDS CHOOSE
TO DO IN AMERICA.

JAKE DELILLO

THEY'RE NOT
QUITE OLD ENOUGH
TO VOTE BUT THEY
CAN RING DOORBELLS
AND HAND OUT LEAFLETS
AND HELP MAKE THE CASE
OF A CANDIDATE THEY
BELIEVE IN.

HE WAS BEATEN
TO DEATH BY THUGS
FOR WHOM FREEDOM
IS JUST ANOTHER
DIRTY WORD.

SHAME
ON THEM.

AND SHAME
ON THE FEAR THAT
INSPIRED THEM.

IS THAT WHAT
RULES US NOW? ARE
WE SO AFRAID OF WHAT
THE FUTURE REPRESENTS--
ARE WE SO TERRIFIED OF
OUR CHILDREN--THAT WE
MUST CRUSH THEM?

LIFE IS A GIFT.
EVERY BREATH, EVERY
STEP WE TAKE, IS AN
EXPRESSION OF HOPE--
THAT WE CAN BUILD ON
TODAY TO MAKE A
BETTER AND BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

JAKE WILL
NEVER HAVE
THAT CHANCE.

SO IT FALLS TO
US TO EMBRACE THE
HOPE FOR HIM--TO
DEDICATE IN HIS MEMORY
A CITY AND A WORLD
THAT'S WORTHY OF
HIM. THAT HE'D BE
PROUD OF.

⊗ NEAR EARTH SPACE

NO OFFENSE,
STORM, BUT AS
"PLAN B'S" GO--

--THIS ONE
IS TOTALLY
NUTS!

GIVEN OUR
COLLECTIVE
HISTORY,
ICEMAN--

--WHAT
ELSE IS
NEW?

DARE
TO BE BOLD,
ROBERT.

YEAH, WELL,
THERE ARE OLD
MUTANTS AND
BOLD MUTANTS
PSYLOCKE--

--BUT
HOW MANY OF
US LIVE TO BE
"OLD, BOLD"
MUTANTS?

HEADS
UP, X-MEN.

ISN'T THAT
OUR RIDE?

VRAMM!!

CHANDILAR-THROWN WORLD OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE

CHARLES XAVIER AND MAGNETO
CAME HERE IN PEACE, SEEKING THE
TRUTH BEHIND THE SUDDEN AND
UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON THE X-MEN.



GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
THE IMMEDIATE IMPULSE WAS TO
HIT BACK JUST AS HARD TO
HURT THEM WORSE THAN THEY
HURT US. BUT WHEN YOU'RE
DEALING WITH A GALACTIC EMPIRE,
IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO EMPLOY A
MEASURE OF DISCRETION.

AFTER THE SECOND
SUCKER-PUNCH,
THOUGH, ALL BETS
WERE OFF.

POLARIS WAS DEAD, MAGNETO
MORTALLY WOUNDED AND SCOTT'S
TEAM OF X-MEN WAS IN THE FIGHT
OF THEIR LIVES.

CYCLOPS WAS
IN HIS ELEMENT.



ALIVE,
CYCLOPS.
I'M ACTUALLY
THRIVING!

BEING
TRANSFORMED INTO
PURE ENERGY HAS ITS
ADVANTAGES.

I'M CREATING A
BARRIER TO PROTECT
US FROM THEIR ENERGY-
CASTERS--THE HARDER
THEY TRY TO BREACH MY
DEFENSE, THE STRONGER
THEY MAKE ME.

MAGNETO?!?

GREAT!
ABOUT TIME
WE CAUGHT A
BREAK.

SID! THERE
IS TOO MUCH
VIOLENCE.

WITHOUT HER
TWO COMPANIONS,
SPIKE CANNOT SCREEN
OUT THE PSYCHIC
STATIC.



X-23--CAPTAIN
BRITAIN--KARIMA--
TAKE OUT THEIR
MUSCLE!

MAGNIFICENT
FOOLS--THEY'RE
ATTACKING!

ALL THE MORE
REASON, LORD
CHANCELLOR,
FOR YOU TO
WITHDRAW.

VICTORY
AGAINST THE
X-MEN MEANS
NOTHING IF THE
ULTIMATE PRIZE
ESCAPES.



CHANCELLOR'S
BOOKIN' LIKE
A MAN WITH A
PURPOSE.

I'M GON'
FOLLOW.



REMY'S RIGHT, THIS BATTLE'S
MAINLY A SIDESHOW. WE CAN'T
LET HIM GO ALONE.

BUT--
CYCLOPS--
RACHEL, HE'S
MY FATHER!



YOU STAND
BESIDE THE DAD
YOU GOT, BIG
BROTHER.

I'LL FIGHT
FOR THE MOM
I LOST.



AND SO IT WENT--QUICKLY,
BRUTALLY, WITH OCCASIONAL
AND TERRIBLE FINALITY...

...AS CAPTAIN BRITAIN
FOUGHT MONSTRA...

...AND THEN
COMMANDO...



...ONLY, LITERALLY,
TO FALL BEFORE
RED SHIFT.



MOVING SO
FAST--HITTING
SO HARD--CAN'T
REACT!



MOVING
FAST ISN'T
MUCH USE...
...IF
YOU CAN'T
DODGE.

GWUHI!



MY
GOD!



I THOUGHT
WOLVERINE WAS--
MY GOD!

HE LEARNED
THE "LIFE".



I WAS
BRED
TO IT.



I NEED
ARCHANGEL
TO BE MY EYES,
SPIKE.

HARD AS IT
IS, I NEED YOU
TO BE OUR
LINK.



I KNOW YOU'RE
SCARED. TOUCH MY
MIND, SO AM I.

BUT EVERYONE
BACK HOME'S DEPENDING
ON US. WE STILL HAVE TO
DO OUR JOB.



SPEAKING OF
EVERYONE BACK
HOME, I ASSUMED
YOU'D BRING
THEM ALL.

IT WOULD
HAVE MADE "OUR"
JOB EASIER.



DIDN'T WORK
OUT THAT WAY,
MAGNETO.

WE'LL MAKE
DO WITH WHAT
WE HAVE.

ⓧ LILANDRA'S THRONE ROOM...

YOU DO REALIZE OF COURSE, CHARLES, THAT IN ALL BUT NAME, BOTH YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS X-MEN ARE ALREADY DEAD!

YOU REALIZE, CASSANDRA, THAT NONE OF US WILL GO WITHOUT A FIGHT!

MAGNIFICENT!

EMPLOYING YOUR PSIONIC POWERS WITH LETHAL FORCE, MY DARLING, THAT WAS QUITE UNEXPECTED.

SO, I TRUST, IS THIS!

DEAR BROTHER-- HOW UTTERLY...

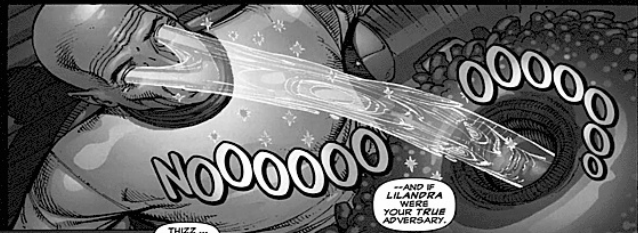
...PHYSICAL!

FORGIVE ME, LILANDRA--MY HEART, MY SOUL... MY LOVE...

MIGHT HAVE WORKED, TOO--

WHAT?!

--HAD ANY OF THIS COME AS A REAL SURPRISE--



NOOOOOOO

...AND IF
LILANPRA
WERE
YOUR TRUE
ADVERSARY.

THIZZ ...
GANT ... "B"
...HAPPPP



YOUR MIND IS
NOW IMPRISONED
AS YOU ONCE
IMPRISONED
ME --

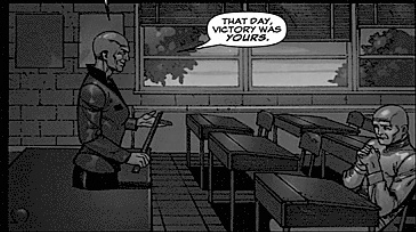
--WITHIN THE
PYSCHIE OF THE
SUPERGUARDIAN,
"STUFF."

DO YOU
REMEMBER,
CHARLES--HOW,
IN OUR MOTHER'S
WOMB--

--WE
FOUGHT FOR
SUPREMACY?

THAT DAY,
VICTORY WAS
YOURS.

TURNABOUT IS
SUCH FAIR PLAY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?





A black and white comic book panel showing three figures in a hallway with arched windows. The figure on the left is a woman in a dark, form-fitting suit. The middle figure is a man in a dark suit with a cape. The figure on the right is a man in a dark suit with a long cape, walking away from the other two.

WHAT'S
THE RUSH,
CHANCELLOR?

MOMENTS
SUCH AS THIS
ARE RARE, AND
THEY QUICKLY
PASS.

A GREAT
STRATEGIST TAKES
ADVANTAGE OF EVERY
OPPORTUNITY.



A large black and white comic book panel featuring Chancellor in a highly detailed, ornate armor with a helmet that has two large, curved horns. He is wearing a dark cape and has a stern expression. Behind him to the left is a man in a dark suit with a cape, and to the right is a woman in a dark, form-fitting suit.

I'M
IMPRESSED
THAT YOU
TRUST US.

A MATTER OF
EXPEDIENCY
ON BOTH OUR
PARTS.

KEEP
OUR FRIENDS
CLOSE, ENEMIES
CLOSER, SORT'A
THING?

I DO LIKE YOU,
SINISTER. WE THINK
VERY MUCH
A LIKE.

FOR YOU,
THIS IS THE
SMART
MOVE.

I AM BY FAR
THE MORE
ENLIGHTENED
RULER.

YOU
TORCHED THE
X-MEN.

MILITARY
NECESSITY. I
ELIMINATE MY
MOST SIGNIFICANT
POTENTIAL
ADVERSARIES...

...OR I PROVOKE
THEM INTO A RESPONSE
THAT WILL ELIMINATE
LILANDRA'S FOREMOST
DEFENDERS.

EITHER
WAY, I WIN.



WHICHEVER
SIDE PREVAILS,
THEY'LL BE SO
WEAKENED BY
THESE BATTLES,
THEIR THREAT
TO ME WILL BE
NEGLECTABLE.

YOU SOUND
PRETTY SURE OF
YOURSELF. YOU'VE
DONE THIS
BEFORE?



OFTEN.

IN HOW MANY
DIMENSIONS?



SO--NOT
THE GENETICIST
AT ALL.

BUT THE THIEF--
COME TO STEAL
AWAY MY
SECRETS.



NAH.
KEEP YOUR
SECRETS.

I WANT
YOUR LIFE.



I'VE HEARD
THAT THREAT FROM
ARMIES, GAMBIT, FROM
ENTIRE EMPIRES. YOU
DON'T SCARE ME.



HEY--
I DON'T
CARE.



YOU FOOLED MY EXAMINERS, THIEF—
I'M IMPRESSED.

JUS'
CHARMED 'EM.
IS ALL—



TRULY A
STRIKING FAMILY
RESEMBLANCE.



WHAT MATTERS.
KHAN IS THAT MY
CHILDREN KNOW THEIR
DADDY ISN'T.





SHOULD'VE
LEFT WELL ENOUGH
ALONE, HOMME.

IT'S A BIG
DIMENSION, ROOM
FOR EVERYONE
T' SHARE.

I DON'T
SHARE,
X-MAN.



I
CONQUER!

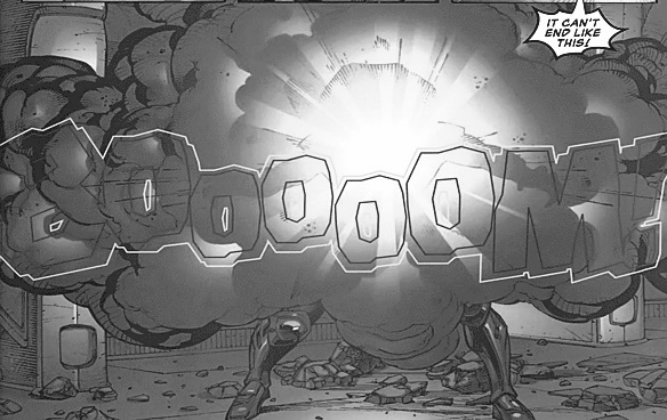


I HAVE
LAID CLAIM TO
SCORES OF
DIMENSIONS.

IN DUE
COURSE, I
WILL HAVE
THEM ALL!



WHY SHOULD
YOURS BE ANY
DIFFERENT--
ENH?!



SCOTT SUMMERS
WASN'T THE FIRST X-MAN
XAVIER RECRUITED.

BUT FROM THE FIRST
HE WAS MEANT TO BE
THE TEAM'S LEADER.

KEEP YOUR
THOUGHTS TIGHT,
SPIKE, TRANSMIT
IN BURSTS.

WARREN, I NEED
A "GOD'S-EYE"
PERSPECTIVE OF
THE BATTLE.

HE HAD A GRASP
OF BATTLEFIELD
TACTICS THAT
WAS--UNCANNY.

HE INSPIRED THE
VERY BEST FROM
HIS TEAMMATES.

ZARRK!

SCORE A BIG ONE
FOR THE GOOD GUYS.

MENTOR'S
DOWN!

THE IMPERIALS
HAVE LOST THEIR
STRATEGIST!

ARCH-
ANGEL!



SCOTT'S OLDEST RIVAL,
HIS OLDEST FRIEND.

WARREN!

MY GOD--
WARREN, OH MY
GOD. OH MY GOD--
I'M SO SORRY!

GOT YOU,
ALIEN!

WHAT?!

KRAKK!

BE MORE AWARE,
SID! THIS ONE, CALLED
SCINTILLA, NEARLY
CLAIMED YOUR
LIFE.

WITH RESPECT,
CYCLOPS, WE
CANNOT AFFORD
TO LOSE YOU.

TH--THANK YOU,
SOORAYA.





PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S THE
SOURCE OF
THESE
IMAGES.

HIS INTELLECT
AND MEMORIES ARE
LITERALLY POURING
OUT OF HIM!

JEAN--



--OOOBUZT...
ZAVE...ZELFI



HE SEES
ME AS
JEAN--
AS MY
MOM.

DON'T WORRY,
CHARLES, I'M
HERE NOW.

EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE
FINE.

EVER THE OUTFLIT
PAUGHTER...

...EVER
THE STALWART
X-MAN--

--EVER THE
FOOL!

SLAM!



SURPRISED TO
SEE ME, MY DEAR,
AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS?

HOW
EMBARRASSING--
WE HIDING LITERALLY
IN PLAIN SIGHT, AND
NOT A ONE OF YOU
SUSPECTED.

I'M ACTUALLY
RATHER GLAD YOU
DESTROYED ANY OTHER
SELF ON EARTH.

SHE
DOESN'T KNOW,
SHE DOESN'T
KNOW!

SHE
THINKS I'M
MY MOM
TOO!

THIS WAY IS
SO MUCH MORE
DELICIOUS.

BECAUSE I
INHABIT HIS SON,
CHARLES NOT ONLY
LOSES HIS PRESENT,
BUT HIS FUTURE.

IRKSOME
CREATURE,
I CAN'T
FIND YOUR
BRAIN.

TOO MUCH TO
HOPE FOR, I SUPPOSE,
THAT YOU PERHAPS
DON'T HAVE ONE.

NO MATTER,
THERE'S NO
RUSH.

ONE WAY OR
THE OTHER, I'LL
GET WHAT I
WANT.

HAVE
YOU ANY IDEA HOW
LONG AND HARD I'VE
PLANNED FOR THIS
MOMENT...?

HOW MUCH
I INTEND TO
SAVOR IT?



BY...EGGSBEN...
ZZZZTOP GOOOO

OF COURSE
THEY WILL, MY
PRECIOUS.

JUST HOLD
THAT THOUGHT
A MOMENT, WILL
YOU...

...WHILE I
ATTEND TO SOME
MORE PRESSING
BUSINESS--

LAST WORDS
ANYONE?

MY HEART,
MY SOUL, I
LOVE--!

HOW
PREDICTABLY,
PATHETICALLY
JETJUNE.



NO NEED,
THEN, TO HEAR
FROM YOU.

THIS IS THE
BEGINNING,
CHARLES.

GUESS
WHO'S
NEXT?



⊗ NEXT: THE DIE IS CAST!



Vortex FX

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